

UC Berkeley

Department of History

History 103S  
Fall 2003

Scientific Medicine  
in American Society  
J. E. Lesch

### Organization and assignments

Course requirements include reading, discussion, and three papers. The first and second papers, of five pages each, will be based on required reading. They will be due on September 24 and October 22, respectively. The final paper, of ten pages and due at the last class meeting on December 3, will be on a topic chosen by the student and approved by the instructor. A prospectus for this paper, including a one-page statement of the topic and a list of main sources to be used, will be due on November 5.

All of the required reading will be found on reserve at Moffitt Library. The following books may be purchased:

Rima D. Apple, *Vitamanía: Vitamins in American Culture* (Rutgers)  
Michael Bliss, *The Discovery of Insulin* (Chicago)  
Allan M. Brandt, *No Magic Bullet: A Social History of Venereal Disease in the United States Since 1880* (Oxford)  
Steven Epstein, *Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge* (California)  
James H. Jones, *Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment* (Free Press)  
John Laszlo, *The Cure of Childhood Leukemia: Into the Age of Miracles*  
Sinclair Lewis, *Arrowsmith* (Signet Classic)  
Martin S. Pernick, *The Black Stork: Eugenics and the Death of 'Defective' Babies in American Medicine and Motion Pictures* (Oxford)  
Roy Porter, *Blood and Guts: A Short History of Medicine* (W. W. Norton & Company)  
Paul Starr, *The Social Transformation of American Medicine* (Basic Books)  
Nancy Tomes, *The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and Microbes in American Life* (Harvard)

History 103S 2003 Reader. This will be produced by Odin Readers, and can be purchased at Ned's Berkeley Bookstore, 2476 Bancroft Way (across from campus).

### Topics and readings by week

1. 8/27 Introduction

#### **I What is the history of medicine?**

2. 9/3 The landscape of medical history

Reading: Roy Porter, *Blood and Guts: A Short History of Medicine*

(complete).

## **II The ideal of scientific medicine**

3. 9/10 Science and the rise of the American medical profession

Reading: Paul Starr, *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*, pages 3-232.

4. 9/17 Medical science in literature

Reading: Sinclair Lewis, *Arrowsmith* (complete).

## **III Reflections of the scientific ideal in American life**

5. 9/24 Microbes

Reading: Nancy Tomes, *The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and the Microbe in American Life* (complete).

**First paper due**

6. 10/1 Eugenics

Reading: Martin S. Pernick, *The Black Stork: Eugenics and the Death of 'Defective' Babies in American Medicine and Motion Pictures Since 1915* (complete).

7. 10/8 Vitamins

Reading: Rima D. Apple, *Vitamina: Vitamins in American Culture* (complete).

## **IV The age of miracle drugs**

8. 10/15 Insulin

Reading: Michael Bliss, *The Discovery of Insulin* (complete).

9. 10/22 Sulfa drugs and antibiotics

Reading: 103S 2003 Reader, pages TBA.

**Second paper due**

10. 10/29 Cancer chemotherapy

Reading: John Laszlo, *The Cure of Childhood Leukemia: Into the Age of Miracles* (complete).

## **V Venereal disease**

11. 11/5 Syphilis and gonorrhea in American society

Reading: Alan M. Brandt, *No Magic Bullet: A Social History of Venereal Disease in the United States Since 1880* (complete).

**Prospectus for final paper due.**

12. 11/12 Medicine and race

Reading: James H. Jones, *Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment* (complete).

**VI AIDS**

13. 11/19 AIDS and the politics of science

Reading: Steven Epstein, *Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge*, pages 1-178.

14. 11/26 AIDS and the politics of treatment

Reading: Steven Epstein, *Impure Science*, pages 181-360.

15. 12/6 Summary and conclusions.

Each student will give a brief, ungraded discussion of his or her final paper topic and its relationship to the themes of the course.

**Final paper due.**